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Goldwater Eases Stand On SALT II

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Sen. Barry Goldwater, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has given the Carter administration a potential boost in its attempt to gain ratification of its SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union.

The intelligence panel has been conducting its own examination of the issue of treaty verification, the term for the ability of the United States to determine if the Soviet Union is cheating.

Goldwater, who is also a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, indicated at a meeting of that panel yesterday that his questions on the issue are being answered.

He was concerned about verification, Goldwater said, but, "I've had that overcome to the point where I wouldn't be too exercised over it now."

The verification issue is a controversial one that is important to treaty ratification. At least one senator, John Glenn, D-Ohio, has indicated his vote depends on satisfying his considerable skepticism about verification.

The administration hopes to get a positive report from the intelligence panel with Goldwater concurring in its findings.

If Goldwater's verification comments were encouraging for the administration, there where others, from the Arizona Republican and elsewhere, that were not.

Jackson Opens Battle

The expected battle with SALT II critic Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., was joined as the armed services panel opened its own consideration of the treaty.

Jackson and Defense Secretary Harold Brown tangled over, among other things, a broad-ranging request from Jackson for SALT-related

documents the senator thinks will help his case against the treaty.

Making the request through the committee, Jackson asked Brown for documents in three categories:

- Memoranda from the Joint Chiefs of Staff setting forth their views on the military issues in the SALT negotiations.
- Cable traffic between the U.S. SALT negotiating team and Washington bearing on the negotiating history of treaty provisions.
- Copies of the "joint draft text" at various stages of the negotiations. The joint draft text was the working SALT negotiating document, containing both agreed upon language and provisions on which the two sides disagreed. Viewed at various stages, the text would provide "snapshots" of the negotiations.

Brown wrote back, in effect refusing the memoranda from the chiefs. He said they would respond to questions when they appeared before the committee.

The secretary said the requested cables weren't under his jurisdiction, but added that it was not State Department practice to turn over day-to-day cable traffic. This infor-

mation, too, could be had from witnesses under questioning, he said.

Brown did indicate that copies of the joint draft text would be made available.

Brown's letter came up at the hearing and Jackson cautioned against using an "executive privilege" argument against supplying the documents.

Jackson received support from Republican William Cohen of Maine who served on the House Judiciary Committee that recommended articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon before being elected to the Senate.

Cohen criticized Brown's response and was prompted to recall the edited transcripts that Nixon offered the Congress when it was demanding the unedited versions of the White House tapes.

Brown, while not indicating the documents would be forthcoming, said he would be "glad to consider how we can make the substance of the information available to this committee."

Earlier, Goldwater had said he felt the failure to count the Soviet supersonic bomber called the Backfire in the treaty limits was coming to be the No. 1 hurdle to Senate ratification.